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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 RIYADH 10227

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OF CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH

11. CONFIDENTIAL--ENTIRE TEXT.

12. FOLLOWING IS AN OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY SENT TO THE EMBASSY FROM CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH'S OFFICE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD TO ASSIST IN PLANNING FOR ABDULLAH'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WHILE THE BIOGRAPHY CONTAINS NOTHING SURPRISING, IT IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS EMPHASIS ON THE CONTINUITY OF THE AL SAUD PRESENCE IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AND ITS STRESS ON ABDULLAH'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN. AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS. WE WILL POUCH ORIGINAL ARABIC TO NEA/ARP.

BEGIN TEXT OF CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH'S BIOGRAPHY:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ABDULLAH IBN ABD AL-AZIZ  
CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND  
COMMANDER OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD

BIRTH:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ABDULLAH IBN ABD AL-AZIZ IBN  
ABD AR-RAHMAN AL-FAYSAL AL SAUD WAS BORN IN THE CITY OF  
RIYADH, CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IN 1343H  
CORRESPONDING TO 1924 AD.

HIS FAMILY:

HE BELONGS TO THE AL SAUD FAMILY. HIS FATHER IS THE  
LATE KING ABD AL-AZIZ IBN ABD AR-RAHMAN AL-FAYSAL AL  
SAUD (1880-1953 A.D.), WHO FOUNDED THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI  
ARABIA AFTER HE BOLDLY EMBARKED ON THE BATTLE TO UNIFY  
THE ARABIAN PENINSULA IN THE FIRST THIRD OF THE 20TH  
CENTURY. HE BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE FROM A STATE OF  
CONTENTIOUS TRIBES AND SMALL, ISOLATED PRINCIPALITIES  
INTO A MODERN ARAB NATION THAT HAS ADOPTED ISLAM BOTH AS  
A WAY OF LIFE AND CONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT. KING ABD  
AL-AZIZ ALWAYS BELIEVED, "WE, THE AL SAUD, ARE FIRST A  
HOUSE WITH A RELIGIOUS MESSAGE, AND THEN A HOUSE OF  
RULERS."

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

THE AL SAUD FAMILY TRACES ITS ROOTS TO THE TRIBE OF ANZA  
IBN RABE'A, NUMERICALLY THE LARGEST ARAB TRIBE. IT CAME  
INTO PROMINENCE DURING THE LAST TWO CENTURIES AS THE  
FAMILY OF REFORM AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INTELLECTUAL,  
CULTURAL, AND LINGUISTIC UNITY OF THE ARAB PENINSULA,  
BASED ON THE ISLAMIC TRADITIONALIST MOVEMENT FOUNDED BY  
A SON OF THE NEW-ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE, SHEIKH MOHAMMAD  
IBN ABD AL-WAHAB (1703-1792 AD). FIRST AMONG THOSE WHO  
SUPPORTED THE SHEIKH IN THE SPREAD OF HIS CALL WAS  
PRINCE MOHAMMAD IBN SAUD WHO DIED IN 1765H. HE WAS THE  
FOUNDER OF THE FIRST SAUDI DYNASTY, WHICH ITSELF PASSED  
THROUGH SEVERAL STAGES, INCLUDING THE PERIOD OF THE  
GREAT IMAMS WHO FOUGHT SUPERSTITIONS, UNIFIED THE RANKS  
OF THE NATION AND WERE DEEMED TO BE THE PIONEERS OF  
RELIGIOUS, ETHICAL, AND SOCIAL REFORM.

THE UNIFICATION AND RENOVATION MOVEMENT LED BY KING ABD  
AL-AZIZ, FATHER OF PRINCE ABDULLAH, IS A CONTINUATION OF  
THE STRUGGLE OF HIS FAMILY TO MOTIVATE MUSLIM ARAB  
SOCIETY TOWARD A REAWAKENING AND STRUCTURING, BASED ON  
TRUE FAITH, RETURN TO THE PURE TEACHINGS OF THE HOLY  
KORAN AND PURE PROPHETIC TRADITIONS.

## INFLUENCES IN PRINCE ABDULLAH'S LIFE:

1A. PRINCE ABDULLAH LEARNED POLITICS AT HIS FATHER'S SIDE.

1B. HE BEGAN HIS EDUCATION IN THE TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC WAY, IN THE MOSQUES UNDER RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS WHO CULTIVATED HIS MIND. HE IS AN AVID AND VORACIOUS READER INTERESTED IN CULTURE, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS.

1C. HIS FAMILY:

FOUR OF THE CROWN PRINCE'S BROTHERS, UNDER WHOM HE HAS SERVED IN THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, HAVE BEEN KING:

--SAUD IBN ABD AL-AZIZ (1952-1964)  
--FAYSAL IBN ABD AL-AZIZ (1964-1975)  
--KHALED IBN ABD AL-AZIZ (1975-1982)  
--KING FAHD IBN ABD AL-AZIZ, THE CURRENT KING (WHOM PRINCE ABDULLAH NOW SERVES AS CROWN PRINCE)

1D. AS CROWN PRINCE, PRINCE ABDULLAH IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH URBAN, RURAL AND DESERT SAUDI SOCIETY. HE OFTEN MEETS WITH THE ULEMA, SHEIKHS AND RELIGIOUS COUNSELORS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND CONSULTATIONS. HE ALSO RECEIVES ANY SAUDI NATIONAL WHO REQUESTS A MEETING WITH HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FOR ANY RELIGIOUS OR MUNDANE MATTER.

## INSTALLATION OF PRINCE ABDULLAH AS CROWN PRINCE:

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1982, THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA PROCLAIMED HIS MAJESTY KING FAHD IBN ABD AL-AZIZ KING AND LEADER AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ABDULLAH CROWN PRINCE. ALL MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGED THEM AND PAID HOMAGE TO THEM. THE EVENING OF THE SAME DAY, KING FAHD APPOINTED PRINCE ABDULLAH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, IN ADDITION TO HIS POST AS CROWN PRINCE.

## COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD:

WHEN KING FAYSAL IBN ABD AL-AZIZ ASSUMED POWER, HE WAS FULLY AWARE THAT HIS ERA WOULD BE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT. HE THEREFORE SELECTED HIS OFFICIALS FOR THEIR QUALITY. THE NATIONAL GUARD, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER THE DESCENDENTS OF THOSE WHO LIVED WITH KING ABD AL-AZIZ WHEN HE UNITED THE KINGDOM, HAS A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE NATIONAL GUARD NEEDED A MAN WHO COULD LEAD AND DEVELOP THE FORCE INTO A SETTLED INSTITUTION. PRINCE ABDULLAH WAS SUCH A MAN. KING FAYSAL THEREFORE CHOSE HIM TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY IN 1964 (1384H). PRINCE ABDULLAH'S APPOINTMENT WAS A MILESTONE FOR THE INSTITUTION, AND SINCE THEN, PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS COMMANDED THE FORCE, A LEADER CLOSE TO HIS MEN WHO PAYS ATTENTION TO THEIR CONCERNS AND LIVES, WITH THE CONSCIENCE AND SPIRIT OF A MUSLIM COMMANDER.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:

IN 1975, KING KHALED APPOINTED PRINCE ABDULLAH SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, IN ADDITION TO HIS POST AS COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

## ARAB AND ISLAMIC RELATIONS:

AS PART OF THE POLICY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO STRENGTHEN ARAB AND ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY AND PURSUE JOINT ENDEAVORS WHICH SERVE THE ISLAMIC AND ARAB NATION AND TO DEEPEN THE EXISTING BROTHERLY TIES AMONG ARAB STATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE ARAB SUMMITS, PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS TRAVELED AND HAD NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE ARAB AND ISLAMIC

WORLD. THE CROWN PRINCE WORKS CONSTANTLY TO HEAL ARAB  
RIFTS.

IN HIS VIEW, RIYADH IS A PLACE OPEN TO ALL ARABS BECAUSE  
OF THE KINGDOM'S SPECIAL ROLE IN GUARDING THE HOLIEST  
ARAB AND MUSLIM SHRINES.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS HAS VISITED THE FOLLOWING ARAB  
COUNTRIES:

1975 LEBANON  
1977 EGYPT  
1977 SYRIA  
1977 JORDAN  
1979 LIBYA  
1979 UAE  
1984 KUWAIT  
1985 ALGERIA  
1985 SYRIA  
1986 YEMEN  
1986 SYRIA  
1986 IRAQ

OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES:

1984 PAKISTAN  
1984 TURKEY

INTERNATIONAL ARENA:

IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS A  
MAJOR ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND A PIVOTAL  
ROLE TO PLAY IN FURTHERING WORLD STABILITY. IT ALSO  
PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OPEC, IN THE NORTH-SOUTH  
DIALOGUE, AND IN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NON-ALIGNED  
STATES, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND  
PROBLEMS. THEREFORE, PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS VISITED THE  
FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

1974 SPAIN  
1975 UNITED KINGDOM  
1975 UNITED STATES  
1984 UNITED KINGDOM  
1984 SPAIN  
1985 FRANCE  
1985 AUSTRIA

HOBBIES:

READING AND HORSEMANSHIP, IN THE ARAB TRADITION. THE  
CROWN PRINCE IS PRESIDENT OF THE SAUDI EQUESTRIAN CLUB  
IN RIYADH.

END TEXT.

HORAN##